

Issaquah / Lake Forest Park Pandemic Influenza Disaster Exercise

Today's Exercise

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With thanks to Carl Osaki and the Northwest Center for Exercise Design



Northwest Center for
Public Health Practice

Roles

- ✧ Facilitators
- ✧ Players
- ✧ Evaluators
- ✧ Recorders
- ✧ Observers



The Scenario

- ✧ Storyboards (4)
- ✧ Messages (16)
- ✧ Responding to messages
- ✧ Handouts
 - ❖ Agenda
 - ❖ Storyboards
 - ❖ Messages
 - ❖ Disease fact sheet
 - ❖ Pre/post evaluation forms

Group Discussions

- ✧ Input from groups

- ✧ Reporting out

Final Instructions

- ✧ Follow agenda
- ✧ Play your own City or agency role
- ✧ Refer to materials as needed
- ✧ Keep notes
- ✧ Participate within your group
- ✧ Breaks

Questions?

Pandemic Influenza Exercise

Part 1



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November: Rural Vietnam

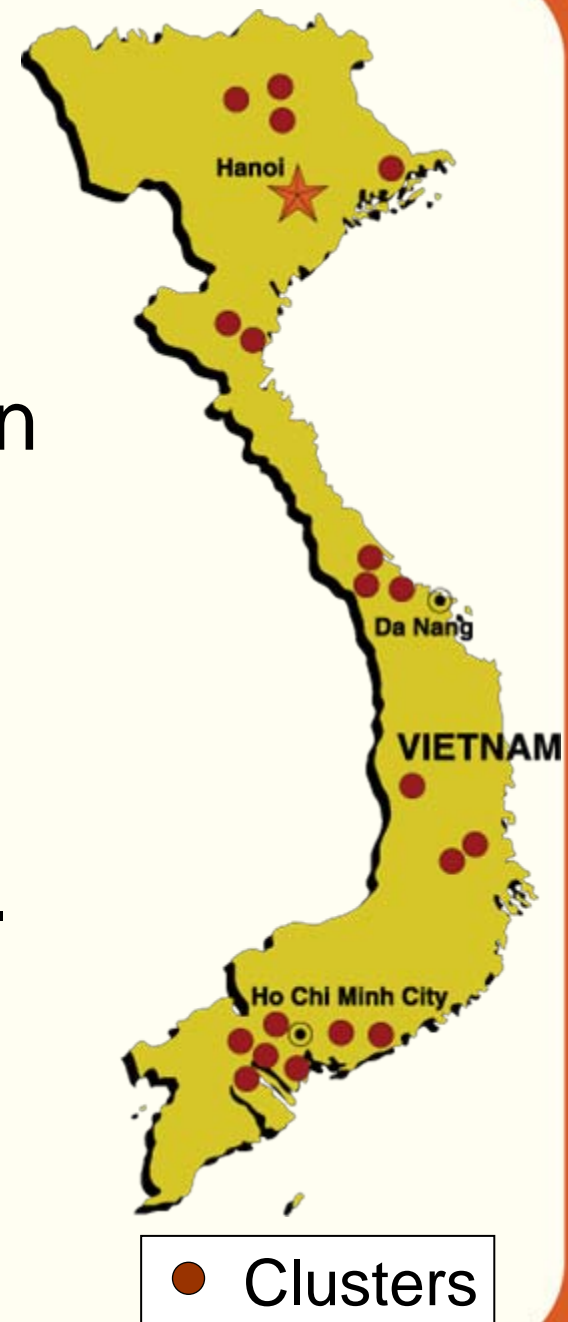
An outbreak of severe respiratory illness hits Vietnam.



- ✧ More than 30 cases, affecting all age groups
- ✧ 25 people hospitalized
- ✧ 10 deaths

Surveillance Identifies New Cases in the Region

- ✧ Person-to-person transmission is suspected.
- ✧ Viral cultures test positive for type A influenza.
- ✧ The strain is a new type of flu.



Initial Response to the Outbreak

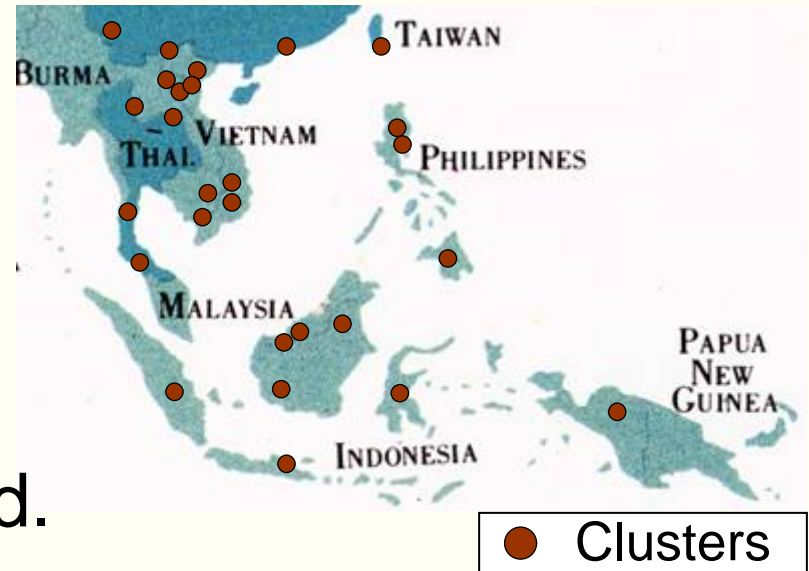
- ✧ WHO & CDC disseminate information through the Health Alert Network (HAN).
- ✧ Development of a vaccine begins.



- ✧ News media throughout the world prominently feature this story.
- ✧ U.S. officials get regular briefings on the situation.

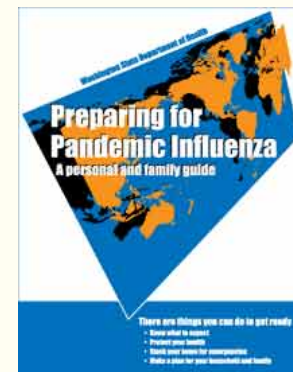
December 15: Outbreak Spreads

- ✧ New strain is identified as H7N3.
- ✧ Cases of H7N3 reported throughout S.E. Asia.
- ✧ Young adults are disproportionately affected.
- ✧ Fatality rates approach 25%.
- ✧ Vaccine not ready & antiviral drugs limited.
- ✧ No cases reported in the U.S. yet....



Local Response

- ✧ Public Health, WA DOH, and CDC are on heightened alert for signs of a local outbreak.
- ✧ Public Health disseminates fact sheets and personal protection advisories.



- ✧ Social distancing measures are discussed.
- ✧ Employers and schools are asked to report increases in absenteeism.

Winter Holidays Approach

✧ Port Authority increases surveillance of holiday travelers.



✧ City staffing levels and service activities wind down as the holidays approach.



Message 1

- ✧ Public Health contacts suburban cities to discuss increased surveillance.
- ✧ All City supervisors asked to review pandemic flu responsibilities.
- ✧ All City administrative units are asked for a status report on flu plan implementation.



Message 2

- ✧ Absenteeism is increasing among business workers and city staff.
- ✧ Visits to local physician offices climb.
- ✧ All City departments are asked to report absenteeism figures.



Message 3



✧ Public Health recommends adoption of personal protection measures.



✧ City management team advises all city departments to implement protection measures.

Message 4

- ✧ School district officials consider delaying the start of winter term.
- ✧ The City Manager requests a report on how school closure will affect your staff, the public, and your operations.
- ✧ You must report within two days — no later than Friday, December 17.



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Part 2



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Tuesday, January 15

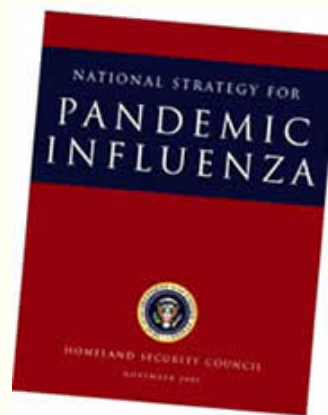
✧ Flu hits the U.S.



✧ H7N3 virus is detected in airline passengers arriving in several U.S. cities.

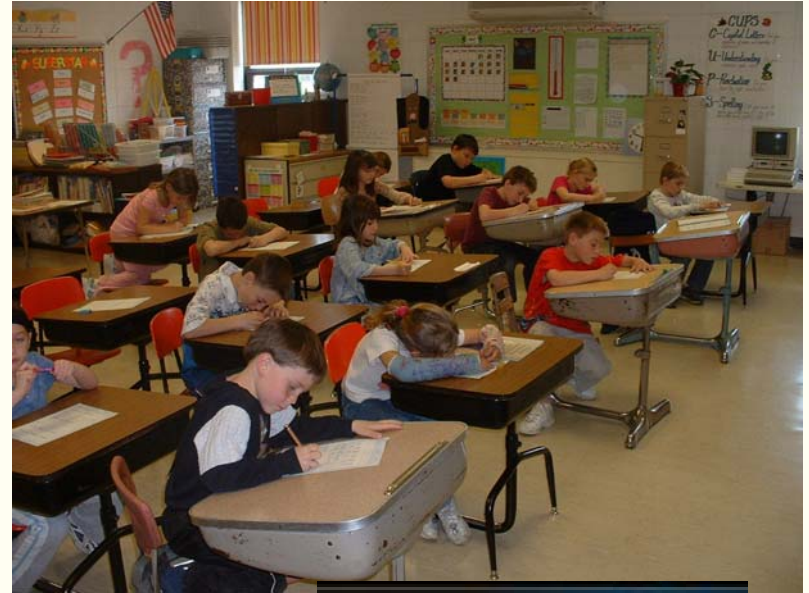
Public Health Agencies Respond

- ✧ WHO and CDC declare the outbreak a pandemic.
- ✧ Public Health departments across the country implement social distancing measures.
- ✧ Local, state and federal Pan Flu plans are activated.



City Status

- ✧ Winter term in school districts began on schedule.
- ✧ Key City personnel are not reachable over the holiday weekend.
- ✧ Some unions are in the midst of collective bargaining negotiations.



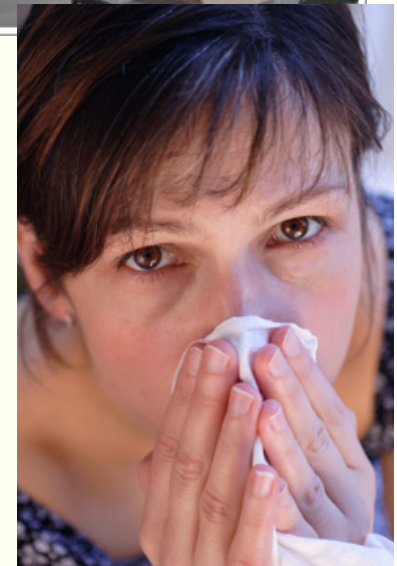
Flu effects in the region

- ✧ All hospitals and medical centers see a notable surge in people presenting with flu-like symptoms.
- ✧ ERs and doctor's offices report large increases in patients with flu-like symptoms.
- ✧ Fear about the high mortality rate of this flu strain has caused more people than usual to seek care.



Message 5

- ✧ Public Health recommends that everyone implement their pan flu plans.
- ✧ The City Manager opens the City EOC at level 2.
- ✧ You are sick with the flu.
- ✧ Your back-up is now feeling sick.
- ✧ The City EOC needs a rep from your unit.



Message 6

- ✧ Many of your staff have called in sick.
- ✧ You receive numerous requests for clarification of policies regarding:

- ✧ Sick leave
- ✧ Health insurance
- ✧ Caring for ill relatives
- ✧ Personal protection



- ✧ 50% of one job class has called in sick.

Message 7

- ✧ The City Manager instructs your unit to identify essential personnel.
- ✧ Many of your key staff have called in sick.



Message 8

- ❖ Local media are featuring interviews with City residents and staff.
- ❖ One newspaper reports misleading and inaccurate details about the City's handling of the outbreak.
- ❖ Your unit was identified in the article.



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Part 3



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Sunday, January 20



- ✧ Public Health orders all K-12 schools and day-care centers closed.
- ✧ Theater and other large gatherings are cancelled.
- ✧ Key staff are absent due to child care, flu, fear, or caring for ill relatives.
- ✧ Media reports of hospitalizations and deaths dominate the news.

Flu Vaccine Still Not Ready

- ✧ Vaccine won't be ready until March/April and will be given to high-priority groups first.
- ✧ PHSKC issues guidelines on prioritizing the use of antivirals.
- ✧ Local pharmacies run out of antivirals.

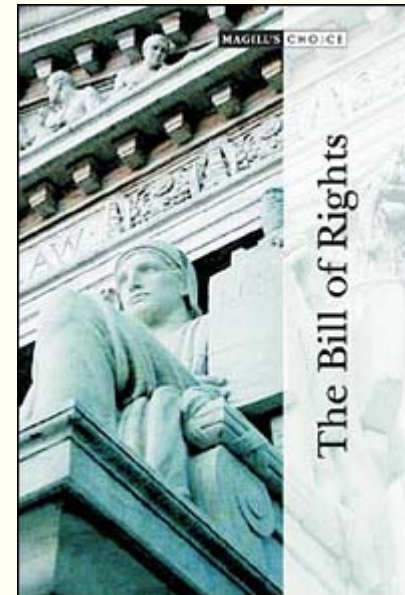


City Residents Express Fear



✧ Residents in apartment buildings and senior housing express fear.

✧ Some residents are concerned about infringement of their civil liberties.



Weather Conditions Deteriorate

- ❖ Cold weather and high winds are predicted for the next 3–4 days.
- ❖ Power outages are possible.



(Courtesy WHDH)

Message 9

- ✧ Many units experience staff shortages.
- ✧ Your unit is asked to identify:
 1. Current and future resource needs of your unit.
 2. Resources available within your unit that could be deployed to other City functions.



Message 10



- ✧ The City suspends routine operations.
- ✧ You have been asked to suspend general operations but maintain essential services.

Message 11

- ✧ Cites are asked to support social distancing in their jurisdiction.
- ✧ The population is unsettled about closures of schools and suspensions of city services.
- ✧ Calls to the city are overwhelming the few staff available.
- ✧ The public is frantic for information.



Message 12

- ✧ Two city residents are found dead in their apartments.



- ✧ Fear is spreading throughout the City.
- ✧ You personally know one of the residents who died.

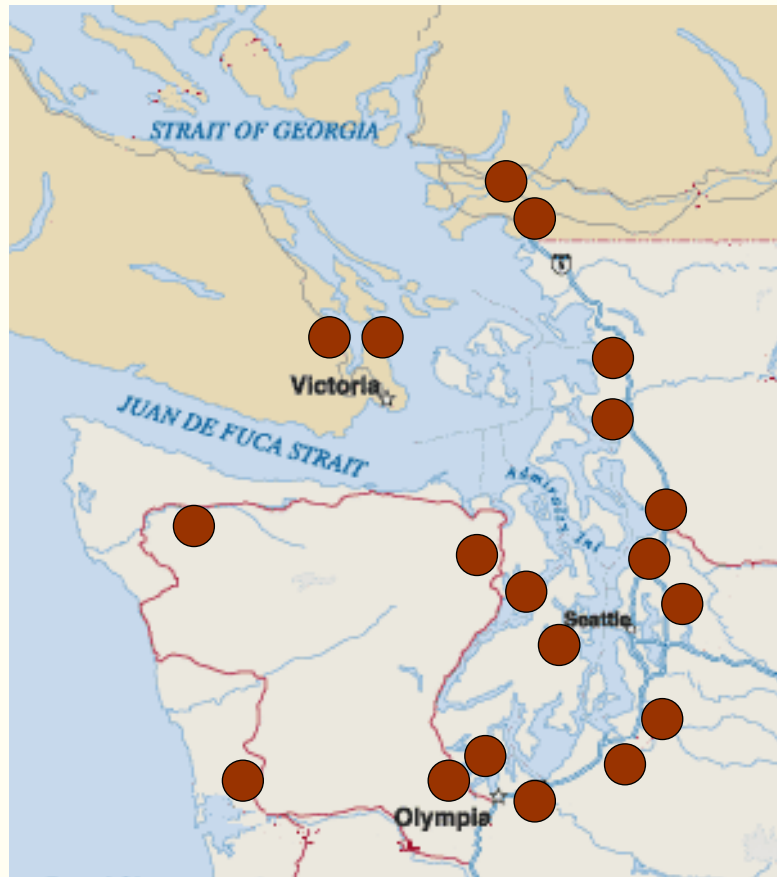
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Part 4



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Friday, March 1, Seattle



- ✧ Puget Sound region is overwhelmed by flu cases.
- ✧ 30% of population is ill with H7N3.
- ✧ Schools and colleges have been closed since late January.

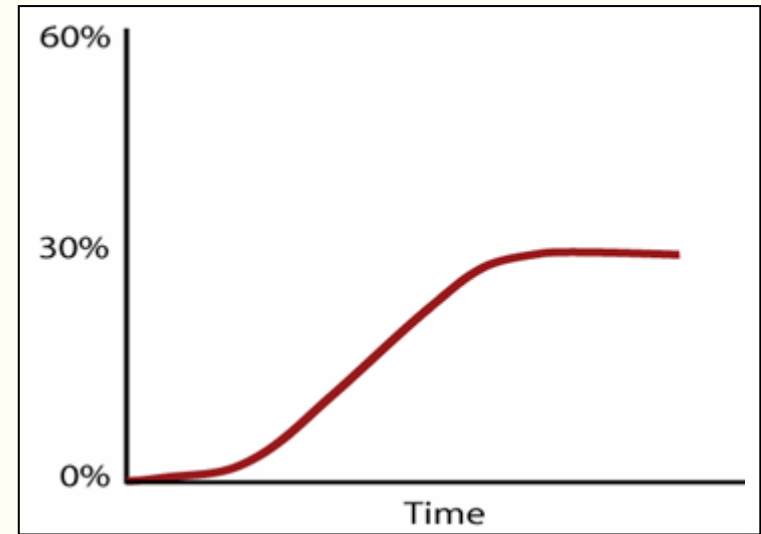
Health Care System Strained

- ✧ 30–40% of health care providers are not reporting to work.
- ✧ ICUs are experiencing shortages of ventilators.
- ✧ The community is overwhelmed by the numbers of dead.



Finally...Some Good News

- ✧ Number of cases is stabilizing and a decline is expected soon.



- ✧ However, hospital and health care staff are exhausted!

Message 13



- ✧ 80% of health personnel have received antivirals.
- ✧ Less than 50% of essential services personnel have received antivirals.
- ✧ Both essential and non-essential personnel in your unit are demanding access to antivirals before they will return to work.

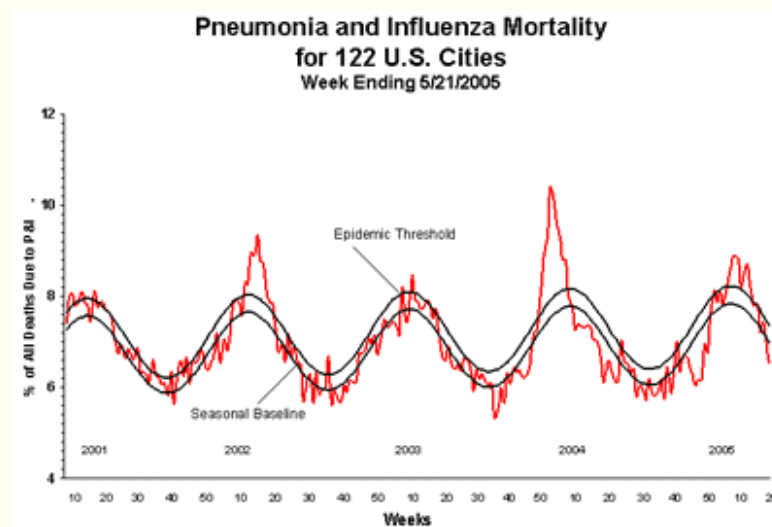
Message 14

✧ Public Health and King County OEM request that the City provide a status report including:

✧ Number of deaths among your staff

✧ Costs to your unit associated with the pandemic

✧ Each unit has been asked to provide data for this report



Message 15

- ✧ Four City workers died during the outbreak.
- ✧ Their families are threatening to sue the City for gross negligence.



- ✧ Your unit is rumored to be named in the suit.

Message 16

- ✧ Staff and City residents want to know when the City will be back to full operation and when schools will reopen.
- ✧ Health officials are concerned about a possible “second wave.”
- ✧ Your unit has been asked to provide a status report on issues associated with reopening City functions.

